

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to interrupt their normal programming in order to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is a blatant partisan attack and certainly should not be allowed to air as "special news coverage".

If Sinclair Broadcasting wants to denigrate John Kerry's service in Vietnam, then they should give equal time by examining Bush's service record during the same period. Another option would be to show a pro-Kerry program, such as Going Upriver, shortly thereafter.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.